



नीति आयोग

NITI AAYOG



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## **AGRICULTURE**

### **1. Mulla Areef, C S C Sekhar**

#### **[Unpaid Female Family Labour in Agriculture](#)**

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 41, 11 Oct, 2025

The contribution of unpaid female family labour to Indian agriculture remains largely invisible, despite its crucial role in sustaining rural livelihoods. Drawing on household-level data from the National Sample Survey Office's Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households (2018–19) and employing an endogenous switching regression model, this paper finds that households not engaging in unpaid female family labour report, on average, one-third lower cultivation income. This finding underscores the centrality of women's unpaid work in enhancing agricultural productivity.

### **2. Shadman Zafar and Md Tarique**

#### **[Rethinking Rice and Wheat](#)**

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 41, 11 Oct, 2025

Despite their environmental and nutritional benefits, millets face significant challenges in profitability and productivity compared to rice and wheat. Promoting millets on a large scale without addressing these gaps could undermine farmers' incomes and jeopardise national food security.

## **ECONOMICS**

### **3. John Coglianesse, Maria Olsson, Christina Patterson and John Coglianes**

#### **[Monetary Policy and the Labor Market: A Quasi-experiment in Sweden](#)**

American Economic Review: Vol. 115, No. 10, October 2025

We analyze a monetary quasi-experiment in Sweden from 2010–2011, when the Riksbank raised the interest rate substantially. We argue that this increase was beyond what labor market conditions warranted, driven instead by new concerns about financial stability. Using a battery of specifications that rule out domestic or international confounders, we show that this monetary tightening led to a

substantial economic contraction, raising unemployment by 1–2 percentage points. Using administrative microdata, we find that sectors with nominal wage rigidity drove much of the response and that the monetary contraction was more regressive than the typical business cycle.

#### **4. Arindam Bandyopadhyay and Ashutosh Kashyap**

[Building a Sustainable Economy: Green Financing for Solar Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 41, 11 Oct, 2025

The challenges and opportunities in financing solar energy enterprises in India are examined, with a particular focus on micro, small, and medium enterprises. The government initiatives and green financing mechanisms are reviewed, and survey-based insights are presented. Easy access to microcredits enables the small solar enterprises to purchase raw materials and machinery, set up manufacturing units, and focus on scalability. Despite maintaining financial discipline, they face barriers, such as poor creditworthiness, small loan sizes, high perceived risks, and a lack of awareness of the availability of finance.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **5. Adama Srinivas Reddy**

[Advancing a Common School System to Address Educational Inequality in India](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 40, 4 Oct, 2025

Market-driven quick fixes like privatization and voucher programmes fail to resolve persistent learning crises and instead widen socio-economic gaps by making quality education accessible only to the privileged. Building on the recommendations of the Kothari Commission and earlier national education policies, the article positions a common school system as essential for achieving equal educational access and promoting democratic values.

## **6. Meenakshi Thapan**

### [From 25 Years Ago: Moral Education in the Contemporary Moment](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 42, 18 Oct, 2025

The sociologist Emile Durkheim, in his classic work, *Moral Education*, outlined the contours of educating the young into a moral civilisation. The task of such an education lies with both the family and the school who are the main agents of the socialisation of the young into the norms, values and beliefs of society. Durkheim of course understood the significance of society, which encompasses the individual, for the maintenance of consensus and well-being. It is society into which we are born and which nourishes and sustains us as well as empowers us with the necessary tools and skills with which we can meet the challenges, dilemmas, and contradictions of everyday life. However, it is also society which creates and reproduces divisions and inequalities in society and education becomes one significant agent through which children are socialised into the dichotomy's characteristic of social existence.

## **7. Nayakara Veerasha**

### [Governing Higher Education](#)

EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 40, 04 Oct, 2025

This is with reference to Deepak Nayyar's article "The Crisis of Higher Education in India: Disturbing Present and Worrisome Future" (EPW, 23 August 2025). The main aim of the article—which is a revised version of a lecture delivered by the author—is to analyse the implications of the politicisation of higher education institutions (HEIs) on the present and future of India. It rightly pointed out how the draft University Grants Commission (UGC) (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025 (draft UGC regulations) endanger the autonomous functioning of HEIs by interfering with the recruitment of vice chancellors, teaching, and other staff.

## **ENVIRONMENT& ECOLOGY**

### **8. Rupam Bhaduri, Anamika Barua, Sumit Vij and Partha Jyoti Das**

[Hydropower Development in the Brahmaputra River Basin: Navigating Climate Risks](#)

EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 40, 04 Oct, 2025

The Brahmaputra river basin holds immense hydropower potential but faces climate risks, ecological uncertainties, and geopolitical tensions. China's proposed Medog dam amplifies downstream vulnerabilities. Limited data-sharing and fragmented research hinder sustainable planning. This article underscores the urgent need for transboundary research and climate-informed hydropower governance.

### **9. Abdullah Nasir**

[Environmental Protection during Armed Conflict and Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 43-44, 25 Oct

In 2022, the International Law Commission adopted the draft principles on the Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict, including provisions to safeguard indigenous peoples' environments and designate them as protected zones. This article examines their scope through a case study of Ladakh, a fragile Himalayan ecosystem disputed between India, Pakistan, and China, and argues for its designation as a transboundary protected area.

## **FINANCE/BANKING**

### **10. R Mohan**

[State Finances in India](#)

EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 41, 11 Oct, 2025

Hari Krishna Dwivedi's book, Debt Sustainability of Subnational Governments in India: Lessons from International Debt Crises, analyses the state finances in the country since the beginning of the 2000s. It was in the first half of the first decade

of the 2000s that most of the states adopted the fiscal responsibility legislations. This came after the large

**11. Arindam Bandyopadhyay and Ashutosh Kashyap**

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**12. Thomas Le Barbanchon**

[Taxes Today, Benefits Tomorrow](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, vol. 17, no. 4, October 2025

This paper tests whether partially unemployed workers value future preserved benefits when they bunch at the kink of the unemployment insurance benefit-withdrawal schedule. I extend the bunching formula of Saez (2010) to a dynamic setting that accounts for the value of future benefits tied to taxation. This yields new tests of tax-benefit linkage based on bunching heterogeneity. I verify in quasi-experiments that UI extension programs that decrease the value of future preserved benefits lead to more bunching and to lower labor supply. Last, a quantification exercise of the dynamic bunching formula provides extra support for a strong tax-benefit linkage.

**13. Erik Brynjolfsson, Avinash Collis W. Erwin Diewert, Felix Eggers and Kevin**

[GDP-B: Accounting for the Value of New and Free Goods](#)

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, vol. 17, no. 4, October 2025

The welfare contributions of new goods and free goods are not well-measured in standard statistical agency metrics like GDP or productivity. We derive explicit terms for the contributions of these goods and introduce a new framework and metric, GDP-B, which quantifies their benefits. We apply this framework to several empirical examples, including Facebook and smartphone cameras, and estimate their valuations through incentive-compatible choice experiments. Our new approach can help measure welfare changes over time and reveal which goods and innovations contribute the most to economic growth and well-being.

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## **HEALTH**

### **14. Susan Godlonton and Caroline Theoharides**

[Diffusion of Reproductive Health Behavior through International Migration: Effects on Origin-Country Fertility](#)

[American Economic Review, vol. 115, no. 10, October 2025](#)

International migrants may facilitate the transmission of ideas across countries. We examine the impact of migrant exposure to reproductive health policies on origin-country fertility in the Philippines. We exploit temporal variation in destination-country reproductive health policies combined with spatial variation across Philippine provinces in their migration intensity and historical composition of migrant destinations. Migrant exposure to more liberalized reproductive health policies reduces origin-community fertility. This reduction is driven by increased adoption of modern contraceptives. Visible policy changes, such as commercial advertising of contraceptives, lead to this change in behavior. Firmly established family planning values moderate the fertility response.

## **LAW AND SOCIETY**

### **15. Anjali Tandon**

[Skill Disparities between Manufacturing and Services](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 40, 04 Oct, 2025](#)

The issue of job creation extends beyond generating employment numbers to ensuring that the jobs created also provide improved earning opportunities for



workers. This paper provides insights into where the higher-earning jobs occur across different employment activities. A skill-earnings sector matrix is constructed, distinguished by employment activity and sectors for workers with varying levels of skills. Further, empirical estimation of the skill-earnings relationship is used to identify how worker skills translate into earnings. The differences across sectors and employment activity lead to potentially varying patterns of earnings across the skill levels. The observed higher average monthly earnings for low-skilled regular salaried workers in manufacturing, compared to those in services, indicate the potential of manufacturing to create jobs that also offer regular earnings for the low-skilled.

## **16. Saugata Hazra and Vijay Raghavan**

### [Community Service](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 42, 18 Oct, 2025](#)

#### A Correctional Paradigm of Punishment

The advent of community service, as a form of punishment in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, has arguably provided significant potential for a correctional paradigm within the framework of the criminal justice system as it prevails in India. This article endeavours to examine how community service can be situated in an emerging legal framework from the vantage point of its impact on society, as a whole, as a means of deterrence and its operationalisation from the viewpoint of the Indian penal regime.

## **17. Ashna Devaprasad**

### [Between Choice and Coercion: Debates on Sex Work and Sex Trafficking in India](#)

[EPW:Vol. 60, Issue No. 42, 18 Oct, 2025](#)

Over the past two decades, discussions on human trafficking have disproportionately focused on sex trafficking in the context of prostitution, sidelining other forms of exploitation. This article engages with key findings from the empirical literature on the Indian experience to unpack the complex

relationship between sex trafficking and sex work. Interpretations of “exploitation” in both fields are fluid and constantly negotiated in real-world scenarios. Policy measures intended to combat trafficking can inadvertently harm sex workers by increasing surveillance, restricting movement, and heightening vulnerability to exploitation, thus threatening their livelihoods.

### **18. George Fenton and Felix Koenig**

[Labor Supply and Entertainment Innovations: Evidence from the US TV Rollout](#)

[American Economic Journal: Applied Economics: Vol. 17, No. 4, October 2025](#)

We study the impact of entertainment technology on labor supply. Using Social Security work histories and a natural experiment arising from the regulated US rollout of television, we estimate that a station launch reduced the probability of working by around 0.3 percentage points, driven mainly by an increase in older-age-group retirement rates. The results support the hypothesis that television's rise contributed to the midcentury transition of retirement from a necessity to "golden years" of enjoyment. Our findings indicate that entertainment innovations have a less pronounced effect on overall labor supply trends than model calibrations in the previous literature suggest.

## **RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

### **19. Michael Hudson**

[Today's Civilisational Conflict](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 41, 11 Oct, 2025](#)

United States' evangelistic rhetoric describes the imminent political and economic fracture of the world economy as a “conflict of civilisation” between democracies (countries that support US policy) and autocracies (nations acting independently). It would be more accurate to describe this fracture as a fight by the US and its Western allies against civilisation